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THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COMPUTER APPLIED
TRAINING SOCIETY
NEWS LETTER
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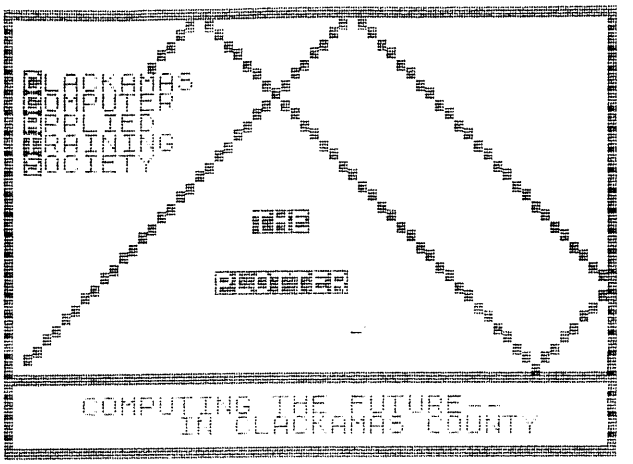
VOLUME 11 ** NUMBER 6

******
JUNE 1993



MEETING

The JUNE meeting will be:

on: SUN., JUNE 13 1993

MEETING open at: 1:00 P.M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
FAR WEST FEDERAL BANK
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CENTER

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

First, please note that THE PLOTTER has a new mailing address. Rod moved about 2 miles so he is still in the same zip code. His address is 14784 South Quail Grove Circle, Oregon City, OR 97045. Also his phone number is unchanged. RMG Enterprises has a flyer called RMG Update News that provides details. Incidently, Rod will be using this flyer in THE PLOTTER monthly in place of his BITS & BYTES column, which has been a near duplicate of the information.

This issue, page 1 of THE PLOTTER has the name in double high letters in place of the usual double wide. One advantage of the double high letters is the MSCRIPT centering command can be used as the letter width is normal. Before, the spacing had to be padded to make the name centered in the column. While working out the printer codes I discovered that some of the old codes work as before even though there have been changes. Odd but nice.

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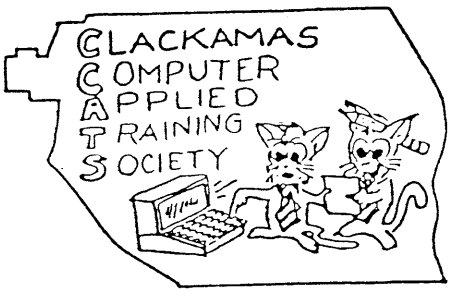

Continued from page 1
The graphic chart is another problem as the choice of horizontal densities with the Epson printer does not give a horizontal densitiy of 72 that I used before. As a result the graphic is about 1/4 inch too narrow so the vertical density was adjusted a little to make the image look better. As this is the diagram of a bouncing ball, the included angles should be 90 degrees.

I invested in a money managing program for MSDOS. The author, Andrew Tobias, states that there were 4 million key strokes required in developing the program. This is why many programs consist of the efforts of a crew, not just one person. Also why some are expensive.

A recent article in a computer magazine was quite critical of the magnitude of memory consumed by some programs and utilities. The point was made that with all of the programs saved on a large hard disk, there should be some way that a part of a program could be used without the need for duplication in another program because it already existed. A nice thought but the problems seem to be great.

MSCRIPT LABEL PRINTING

Dick Wagner

Recently I had the need to type out a list of 16 address labels required by the City Of Canby. It had to be on mailing labels in 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet size. This was obviously a computer/printer task that seemed to fit a data base program. Pro File seemed to be the choice until I found that several addresses were over 32 characters long.

My final selection was a special label program called MSM, by Jack Dohany. This program was originally intended for single column mailing labels, 3 1/2 inches wide. I planned to use 4 inch double wide labels. The program is set up for 6 lines per label which gives 5 lines of text if the page is adjusted properly. Printer left margins are easily changed in MSCRIPT.

The method I used was to block print the first 8 addresses with a left margin of 2 and page length of 6. The text had been padded with empty lines to get the printing on the second row of labels. Next the label paper was fed thru the printer and returned to the tractor feed. The block definition was erased and reset for the last 8 addresses. The left margin was changed to 42. Then the paper was fed to the starting line. The printer again started the printing on the second label row.

This process was easy and the results were very good. Granted it took some trials to get every thing going right. Maybe I'll have to do this again sometime so now I know how to print 2 columns of labels.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Dick f. Wagner

Have you noticed the last few issues of THE PLOTTER have a husky staple at the top teft corner? This is a function of a new Cannon 4 color photocopier now available at the print shop where we make our newsletter copies. The machine collates 20 copies of the 8 pages (4 sheets), then staples the corner of each set.

The mechanics of the printing process is about like this--separate printed copies of the 8 pages are loaded into the copy feeder, in normal order, text up with page one on top. The machine then moves the 8 pages thru a counter to find out how many double sided copies to make. The last page (8) is then loaded and copied 20 times, being held in the machine until finished. Next page 7 replaces page 8 and copies of this page are made onto those sheets. These are sent to the collator stack as they are completed. The process continues until all of the sheets are completed. Then the collated stack is stapled, one set of 4 sheets at a time.

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Continued from page 2
The stack is manually removed and the machine is reset to the proper number of copies for the second run. I have not used the color printing process but have seen it make a single copy in 2 colors. Very impressive!

BOX THE TITLE

Dick F. Wagner

Last month we provided a program to generate a double line box. This method is suitable for a screen display but not practical for text to be printed on a large printer. This article deals with a solution for a print-out of text, such as I have here.

I am using MSCRIPT V5.3 on my 2068, and Epson LQ 570 printer. The method will be somewhat similar for Tasword II. Any printer that is Epson compatible with the same graphic symbols, and character codes for them should work, as long as MSCRIPT works with that printer.

The ASCII character codes used for making a double line box are as follows:

ASCII Code	Character	Description	Assign MSCRIPT Codes
201	╔	Top Lt cor	1
187	╗	Top Rt cor	2
200	╚	Bot Lt cor	3
188	╝	Bot Rt cor	4
205	═	Top & Bot	5
186	║	Ends	6

IBM compatible computers have these ASCII codes for graphic characters included in the character sets but they are not available in Sinclair Basic so the characters cannot be shown on the screen. They could be designed with the user graphic keys but that is a lot of work and they would not work for word processing. The printer codes would still have to be used.

MSCRIPT has a method of embedding printer codes in the text that uses the copyright symbol, ©, plus a number from 0 thru 9. Note that the © is not the same symbol used in MSCRIPT, which is a larger symbol. I have arbitrarily assigned the MSCRIPT codes as per the table. The screen will not display the printed box but I have used asterisk symbols to make a box of sorts. There will be as many asterisks as there will be ©s along with the necessary printer and computer codes.

The first step is to assign the printer codes as prescribed for MSCRIPT by using %#1=201/1,#2=187/1, etc. Note that the % is only for this text as the character is the right pointing arrow on the T key. If I used the correct symbol here the numbers would not print.

The second step is to generate the text and the box around it. It will look like this:

```
******************
* BOX THE TITLE *
******************
```

There are 17 asterisks across and 3 lines down. The box can easily be larger than this but not smaller for this text. Now we know how much space to allow for the box and printed text.

The third step is to replace each asterisk with the corresponding copyright symbol and MSCRIPT code. The top line is 1,(15)5s, and 2. The second line is 6, BOX THE TITLE, 6 and the last line is 3, (15)5s, and 4. Each number is preceeded by ©. With MSCRIPT each time this combination is inserted in the text, the line moves right 2 columns to make room for the input. Just erase the asterisks with the backspace key.

The box and title will look like this, using the $ symbol for the copyright symbol:

```
$1$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$2
$6 BOX THE TITLE $6
$3$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$5$4
```

I have made this rather detailed but in normal use it is really quite simple, particularly in that you are using the copyright symbol.

Placement of the box is simple with MSCRIPT. Simply use the left margin command LM followed by the margin desired. This article is written with 64 columns with a left margin of 8. If the reader prints it out, the box will be at LM 26 to be centered. Remember to cancel these commands with LM and 8.

My columns for THE PLOTTER are printed with a left margin of 5 and line length of 36. The title box would then be printed at LM 5+(36-17)/2=14.

I'll try to accomplish this boxed title thing with the Tasword II word processor and give a report on it.

CONVERTING FROM GWBASIC

Dick F. Wagner

The PC PAGE has a program that very rapidly displays a graphic figure that looks like it has been plotted. One program is for SCREEN 2 which is an 80 column graphic mode. This screen has 0 to 639 pixel layout across and 0 to 199 pixels vertical. The other program is for SCREEN 1 which is 320 pixels wide by 200 pixels vertical, or 0 to 319 by 0 to 199.

Neither of these screens match the Sinclair screen of 256 pixels by 176 pixels so any program conversion must take the screen size into account.

A more complex problem is that GWBASIC starts the screen at the top left with 0,0 while SINCLAIR BASICS starts at the more conventional lower left corner with 0,0. If all other things fit then the image from GWBASIC must be inverted to appear the same on the Sinclair BASIC screen. These problems are solved in the conversion from the GWBASIC program. The size will not be duplicated exactly as I have used reasonably close factors. I have added an X and Y axis notation plus 0 and the end values of X and Y.

```
 5 REM conversion by D.F.W.,
 5/93
10 PRINT AT 3,0;"140";AT 20,2;
AT 10,2;"Y"
15 PRINT AT 21,4;"0";AT 21,15;
"X";AT 21,28;"200"
20 FOR J=0 TO 20
30 LET X=J*10
40 LET Y=20+J*7
50 PLOT 28,(170-Y): DRAW X,-
(160-Y)
60 NEXT J
```

Note that line 50 uses PLOT for the beginning point for Draw while GWBASIC requires a starting x,y and and ending x,y with "-" which means GOTO. It appears that the GWBASIC machine code does the same thing as the PLOT machine code in this case.

RMG UPDATE NEWS FOR JUNE 1993

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 6

We would like to hear from you! If you have something that you think we or our readers would be interested in hearing about, please call or write! We will pass it on!

** RMG NEWS **

A couple of VERY IMPORTANT bits of news for you loyal readers this month---PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS BELOW and IF YOU HAVE A LETTER OR AN ORDER PENDING WITH RMG, DO NOT DISPAIR! WE WILL GET TO IT! After 23 years in the same location we have been forced to move and, in so doing, a lot of our mail has been mislaid and it may be a few weeks before we locate it.If you do not see something from us within a reasonable time, say--6 weeks or so, PLEASE let us know what you wanted and we will do our best to correct the problem. The new address for RMG and for CCATS users group is now as follows:

RMG ENTERPRISES
14784 SOUTH QUAIL GROVE CIRCLE
OREGON CITY, OR 97045

CCATS
14784 SOUTH QUAIL GROVE CIRCLE
OREGON CITY, OR 97045

As you can see, only the street address has changed. all phone numbers are the same as are the city, state and zip code.

Also, plase note our new telephone hours: 8AM-7PM PACIFIC TIME.

If your order has arrived since our move, it will still be a while before you will see anything arrive. Reason? With over 300 boxes having been hastily packed and moved by volunteer help, we cannot locate anthing until we have sorted and arranged our stock. This could take from 4-6 weeks to do properly. As we find things that are on orders, we will fill these orders.

Please bear with us and we thank you for your patinece in advance.

Due to the fact that not many orders were filled since the last flyers, we are not going to be including any sale pages this month. Watch next month's flyers for our special inventory reduction sale. After the move we now have some idea of what we have in stock and we need to reduce it! We will be sending out a full page of new items that will be on sale for up to 50% off our already low prices!

KEEP WATCHIN' FOR MORE NEWS! Rod Gowen, Owner, RMG Enterprises

14784 South Quail Grove Circle, Oregon City, OR 97045
503/655-7484 8AM-7PM PT * FAX: 503/655-4116 24 HRS

the plotter

pc page

by: Rod Gowen

My odyssey continues into the land of OS/2----

We now sit at the Desktop of OS/2. Of course, as is the way with most software that I install, the colors are all wrong for me. My first job is to set up the correct (usable) color scheme.

I chose the SETUP option from the SYSTEM object window. There was the COLOR SETUP object and it brought up a SCHEME menu. This is a selection of pre-set color schemes that someone at IBM thinks that we, the users, would be happy with. Luckily, they allow you to pick NEW SCHEME and proceed to change almost every part of each screen and window. There are some exception as with all software. My one BIG problem showed up when I finished and found that I could not read anything in my DOS windows. It seems that, using the scheme I had designed, I got dark blue ink on a black background and the only way to correct it seems to be to re-install OS/2 from the beginning and select a new scheme. I thought that this was a MAJOR drawback! I finally got the colors to where I could live with them and went on to set up other aspects of the system.

I started putting "objects" on the main desktop that I would be using all the time instead of leaving them in other windows which would slow me down. This went well and I was soon running several DOS applications at the same tome with no apparent problems. This is GREAT! You soon realize that, with the "virtual DOS windows" running under OS/2, you have almost the full 640K of memory in each one and that means that there is virtually no DOS application that will come up with the familiar "not enough memory" error message!

As noted earlier, one can also run Windows applications by choosing the WINOS/2 object from the desktop. In version 2.0 of OS/2 the Windows does not have a "program manager", but I understand that the new release, version 2.1, will have it working. Actually, version 2.0 used a "fixed" version of Windows 3.0 and version 2.1 will use Windows 3.1. I tested the WINOS/2 window with a couple of Windows applications and it seemed to work, although much slower than if you were running Windows under DOS. I understand that this has also been taken care of in the new release.

In part five we will take a closer look at some of the unique features of the overrating system.

Keep watchin'!

USING LINE

Dick Wagner

GWBASIC has a LINE command that is interesting. This command requires a beginning point and ending point on the screen. The screen must be in graphic mode as SCREEN 1 or SCREEN 2. A program line such as LINE (20,Y)-(X,160) has a starting point 20 (X) and the variable Y, and ending point at the variable X, and fixed Y of 160. The following program for SCREEN 1 displays an interesting arrangement of lines:

```
10 SCREEN 1
20 FOR J= TO 20
30 LET X=20+J*10
40 LET Y=20+J*7
50 LINE (20,Y)-(X,160)
55 REM the - sign just means to
60 NEXT
70 END
```

For SCREEN 2, the program needs adjusting because the screen is 80 column instead of 40 columns wide.

```
10 SCREEN 2
20 FOR J= TO 20
30 LET X=80+J*20
40 LET Y=20+J*7
50 LINE (80,Y)-X,160
60 NEXT
70 END
```

HARD DRIVE NOISE

Dick Wagner

My son has had a Wang computer for some years. Over a period of time it developed a high pitched whine that was very objectionable in the office. The culprit was the hard drive. Replacement seemed to be a rather expensive way to cure the problem.

He located a book on "How To" fix your own computer. In it this very problem was discussed. It mentioned that the obvious solution was lubrication, but the more likely action was a grounding leaf spring located in the open, this spring contacts the end of the drive motor shaft. Probable roughness of the shaft end sets up a vibration of the leaf spring. This spring is quite hard, probably berillium. The recommended solution was to apply a dab of rubber-like cement to the exposed surface of the spring to dampen the period of vibration. Presto..it works like a charm. Don't use epoxy cement as it sets up hard.

—NOTICE—

Opinions expressed in articles are not necessarily those of members of the Clackamas Computer Applied Training Society . Meeting minutes carry the consensus of members present at meeting. This newsletter nor staff will not be held liable for any damage or consequences due to following instructions, or review of products as contained in this newsletter

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

FREE SUBSCRIPTION WITH PAID
CCATS MEMBERSHIP-$20.00/YR

PLACE YOUR AD HERE

AD RATES

****

1 FOUR LINE CLASSIFIED FREE
WITH MEMBERSHIP

$ .50 / LINE
$ 5.00 / 1/4 PAGE
$ 8.00 / 1/2 PAGE
$ 15.00 / FULL PAGE

ALL AD COPY MUST BE IN BY THE 10TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO THE MONTH AD IS TO RUN.

CCATS
14784 S. Quail Grove Circle
Oregon City, OR 97045

(place label here)